

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2, 3, 8-10, 15-18, 28, 30 and 33 have been amended. Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 3, 8-11, 15-18 and 28-33 remain pending in the application. Amendments to the claims are supported by at least Figures 3 and 4 and the description of those Figures at pages 12-13 of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Objections and §112 Rejections

Figure 6 has been amended as shown in the attached Replacement Drawings Sheet to replace reference number 144 with 144' for the five occurrences of reference number 144 at the left most side of Figure 6. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection to Figure 6 is respectfully requested.

The title of the application has been amended to be more descriptive of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claim limitation at issue in claim 10 has been removed with the above amendments. Applicants submit claims 10 and 11 are now definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

§102 Rejection

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-18 and 28-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Zarouri et al. (U.S. 5,771,138). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Zarouri discloses an HGA 3 that includes a load beam 4, flexure 6, slider 2, four transducer wires 1, and four bonding pads 7 positioned at a front end of the slider 2 (see Figures 2, 3 and 1E). The wires may be routed together (Figure 2), in pairs (Figure 3), or as a flex circuit 8 with conductors 9 (Figure 1E) to the front end of the slider 2 and bonded to the bonding pads 7. Zarouri also discloses in Figure 1F the conductors 9 bonded at a rear end of slider 2, opposite the front end connection shown in Figure 1E.

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However, Zaroui fails to disclose a slider scale package assembly that includes "a slider/MR head having opposing front and back sides, the front side defining an air bearing surface," "at least one interconnect pad disposed at the back of the slider/MR head," and "a flex circuit attached to the back of the slider/MR head," as required by claims 1, 15 and 28. Although Zarouri discloses positioning of flex circuit 8 between slider 2 and flexure 6, the flex circuit 8 is not an "interconnect pad." Therefore, Zarouri fails to disclose at least one interconnect pad disposed at the back of the slider 2, which back side is opposing an air bearing surface of the slider. Applicants submit that the front end and rear end connections of conductors 9 shown in Figure 1E and 1F of Zarouri fail to disclose the limitations of claims 1, 15 and 28 and the claims that depend from them. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

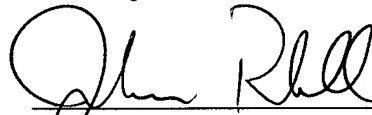
Summary

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 612/336-4755.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

Dated: 12-11-03



Joshua N. Randall
Reg. No. 50,719
BHB/JNR:dc:ae